

**Office of Communications
Cancer Information Service Research Program**

CIS Research Program Team

Project Officer for Research

The Project Officer for Research provides leadership to the CIS Research Program. She helps to establish research teams and ensures that the research objectives of both the investigator and the CIS are met.

Linda B. Squiers, Ph.D.
Cancer Information Service Research Program
National Cancer Institute

CIS Senior Research Coordinators

The CIS has funded doctorally prepared Senior Research Coordinators to work with academic researchers to develop collaborative research projects and funding applications.

Susan Rivers, Ph.D.
Yale Cancer Center

Robin C. Vanderpool, Dr.P.H., CHES
University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel, Ph.D.
University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Nigel Bush, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

LINDA B. SQUIERS, PH.D.

Project Officer for Research

Cancer Information Service Research Program

National Cancer Institute

Linda Squiers is the Project Officer for Research at the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service. Since 2003, she has led the CIS Research Program, a collaborative research venture through which investigators partner with the CIS to plan, implement, and disseminate the findings from studies that further the field of health communication. The results of these studies will help the CIS develop evidence-based interventions for effective communication approaches to educating the public about cancer.

Linda has more than 15 years of experience working in health communication research and evaluation and has overseen studies involving telephone surveys, in-depth interviews, and data analysis. She has expertise in program planning, program evaluation, and questionnaire design. In addition, she has designed media analysis studies, analyzed qualitative and quantitative data, and written numerous evaluation reports for both the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Linda's current research interests focus on health information seeking and social marketing.

Before joining NCI's staff, Linda worked as an NCI contractor to develop a five-year comprehensive evaluation plan for the CIS. She also assisted NCI's Office of Education and Special Initiatives in planning the evaluation of its Clinical Trials Education Series and Survivorship Series of publications. She has developed and implemented health communication evaluations for other government agencies, such as the National Institute of Drug Abuse's (NIDA's) National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, the CDC's Youth Media Campaign for VERB, CDC's National Folic Acid Communication Campaign, and CDC's Life Preserver Campaign.

Linda has a doctorate in health education from the University of Maryland.

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SUSAN E. RIVERS, PH.D.*

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-New England Region, Northern Cluster

Yale Cancer Center

Susan E. Rivers is the Senior Research Coordinator at the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service – Northern Cluster, located at the Yale Cancer Center. She is also an Associate Research Scientist in the Health, Emotion, and Behavior (HEB) Laboratory in the Department of Psychology at Yale University.

As Senior Research Coordinator, Susan is responsible for developing and implementing collaborative research projects that further the field of cancer communication as well as inform the delivery services of the CIS. With the HEB Laboratory, she is designing a series of studies to examine the effectiveness of psychologically tailored messages to promote healthy lifestyle choices among individuals across the cancer continuum.

In another line of research, Susan focuses on the role emotion-related abilities, or emotional intelligence (EI), play in effective social and intrapersonal functioning. Currently, she is implementing and evaluating a classroom level intervention using the principles of EI to promote effective functioning among elementary school children.

Susan's research draws from a social psychological perspective to understand the conditions that promote and impede healthy living. In previous research, she examined how both environmental factors and individual differences shape beliefs about health care decisions and behavioral choices among patients living with heart disease and among women in a community health center. Before joining Yale and working with CIS, she was a lecturer at Skidmore College. Susan earned her doctoral degree in psychology at Yale.

Susan Rivers, Ph.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

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*Susan Rivers is currently on leave and is expected to return in April. In her absence, Linda Mowad, Program Director for the CIS New England Region, will provide support for the Research Program's Northern Cluster. Linda has been with the CIS for over twenty years and has worked with researchers on collaborative CIS research studies.

Linda Mowad

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NIGEL BUSH, PH.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-Northwest Region, Western Cluster

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

In addition to being the Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Western Cluster, Nigel Bush is a senior staff scientist in the clinical and public health divisions of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC). He is a psychologist specializing primarily in health-related quality of life (QOL) research, and in the design and use of the internet and other interactive technologies in health communication.

Most recently, Nigel was Co-Principal Investigator of a four-year NCI project that developed a Web-based patient self-assessment QOL questionnaire to capture information about recovery from people who had bone marrow and stem cell transplants.

Nigel currently serves as Co-Investigator on various projects concerning computerized patient symptom self-report, cancer risk education and interventions, and smoking cessation in underserved populations. He is the co-founder of the Washington-Alaska Cancer Pain Initiative, a multidisciplinary movement directed toward improving the management of cancer pain.

Nigel directs the FHCRC InHealth Group (Interactive Communications and Intervention), conducting independent research and providing comprehensive technological and scientific support in interactive communications technology to cancer and other health researchers.

Nigel was educated in the United Kingdom where he earned a B.Sc. with Honors in psychology from the University of Nottingham and a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Southampton.

Nigel Bush, Ph.D.
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LUDMILA COFTA-WOERPEL, PH.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service-South Central Region, Central Cluster

University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

In addition to her role as Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Central Cluster, Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel is also Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. Her involvement with the CIS Research Program stems from her interest in testing and disseminating health communication and cancer control interventions in public health programs.

Ludmila came to the United States to study personality and psychosocial risk factors for cardiovascular disease at Duke University Medical Center. Her interest in chronic disease prevention led her to cancer prevention and health communication that focuses on nicotine and tobacco. Her current research examines mechanisms of smoking cessation and relapse in special populations. Ludmila has been Co-Investigator on seven smoking cessation clinical trials and longitudinal cohort studies as well as Principal Investigator on an NCI-funded study of racial/ethnic differences in nicotine dependence. She has published manuscripts on predictors of smoking prevalence, cessation, and relapse in community samples and authored reviews of evidence on pharmacological and behavioral treatments for tobacco dependence.

The highlights of Ludmila's special interests include state-of-the-science methodologies of real-time data collection and the application of mixed models to analysis of real-time longitudinal data.

Ludmila received her Ph.D. in psychology from the Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Ludmila Cofta-Woerpel, Ph.D.

Senior Research Coordinator

Central Cluster States: NE, KS, MO, IL, ND, SD, MN, IA, WI, TX, OK, MT, WY, UT, CO, AZ, NM

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ROBIN C. VANDERPOOL, DRPH, CHES

Senior Research Coordinator

Cancer Information Service- Mid-South Region, Southern Cluster

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program

Robin C. Vanderpool is the Senior Research Coordinator for the Cancer Information Service-Southern Cluster located within the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Prevention and Control Program. She has been with the CIS-Mid-South for almost five years as a Cancer Information Specialist and Research Coordinator. In her current position as CIS Senior Research Coordinator, Robin is responsible for working collaboratively with researchers to formulate research projects, develop funding applications, coordinate the implementation of studies conducted with the CIS, prepare manuscripts for publication, and translate and strategically disseminate innovations and research findings.

Robin's professional interests include cancer health disparities among rural populations, dissemination research, tobacco control, health behavior, and cancer epidemiology. Robin has worked extensively with the Cancer Information Service network on research-related policies and continuing education programs; the University of Kentucky College of Public Health on rural health issues; the Kentucky Cancer Program on tobacco control initiatives; and the Appalachia Community Cancer Network on cancer disparities in Appalachia.

From 1999-2000, Robin served as both a health communications intern (Health Promotions Branch) and fellow (Patient Education Branch) at the National Cancer Institute.

Robin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychobiology from Centre College and a Master of Public Health degree from Western Kentucky University. She has completed all course requirements for the Doctorate of Public Health degree from the University of Kentucky College of Public Health, and anticipates graduating in May 2006. She is also certified as a Health Education Specialist (CHES) by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

Robin C. Vanderpool, DrPH, CHES

Senior Research Coordinator

Southern Cluster States: AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, TN, WVA, VA, MD, DC, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, US Virgin Islands

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